



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 24, 2009

Contact: Destry Henderson  
202-225-2006

**McMorris Rodgers' Statement on President Obama's Address to Congress**

(Washington, D.C.) Tonight, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers released the following statement following President Obama's address to Congress:

"Tonight, President Obama outlined his priorities as we address the challenges facing America. No matter the issue, it is important to remember the best solutions come from Main Street, not from Pennsylvania Avenue.

"The biggest challenge our nation faces is the economy. Growing and expanding our economy starts with true tax relief that allows middle class families and small businesses to keep more of their hard-earned money, instead of sending it to Washington D.C. It also involves investing in infrastructure and our workforce.

"I applaud President Obama's commitment to reducing our national debt. Just like families and small businesses must balance their budgets and prioritize spending, the federal government must do the same. Now is the time for both parties to back up their promises for fiscal discipline.

"In order for America to remain strong and safe and if we are going to attract and train and put in harm's way America's finest, our military men and women need the best training and proper equipment to accomplish the mission and build new weapons systems to stay ahead of the threat.

"A health care solution to ensure access to quality and affordable health care for every American is necessary. I look forward to working with President Obama to expand health information technology, especially in the rural areas, which will improve health care delivery and save costs. Ultimately, it is also very important that any health care solution protect the treasured doctor patient relationship.

"I look forward to championing Eastern Washington energy solutions as part of meeting our national energy needs. Eastern Washington has led in renewable hydro, wind, biomass, and biofuel projects. We also have companies like Itron developing new smart meter technology for increased conservation and Schweitzer Engineering expanding critical smart grid innovation.

"I believe the best solutions are developed when Republicans and Democrats work together. I stand ready to work with President Obama and the rest of his party to unleash American ingenuity and the entrepreneurial spirit."